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Senate panel votes to repeal US law on gay marriage

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Senate judiciary committee voted 10-8 yesterday in favor of repealing the Defense of Marriage Act, but it remains unclear if and when the controversial law will be wiped off the books.

Enacted five years ago, the law -- known by its acronym DOMA -- effectively denies federal benefits to gays and lesbians who now can legally marry in six states and the District of Columbia.

Its repeal, sponsored by

Diane Feinstein, a Democrat from California and former mayor of gay-friendly San Francisco, would be a victory for the gay rights movement -- and a major setback for social conservatives.

Under DOMA, marriage is defined in federal law exclusively as "a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife." It also enables states without gay marriage the power to not recognize same-sex vows made elsewhere.

ELMAR could make history extending cost saving aid to families

The topic of energy efficiency remains high on everyone's agenda in these times of the high cost of energy. Aruba and her Parliamentarians are no exception. Recently two of our Parliamentarians, Donny Rasmijn and Andin Bikker were part of an interesting and informative political dialogue which took place in the Dominican Republic. This dialogue was organized by CEPAL where the Latin Parliament's Commission on Energy and Mining was also in attendance.

Rasmijn and Bikker are Aruba representatives on this Commission. According to research conducted by CEPAL as reported by them, the demand for petroleum worldwide can experience a reduction of 56% if energy could be used more efficiently and responsibly. Many top executives from banks, technicians and politicians are attending sessions like this to try and promote more projects and laws to help reduce energy consumption.

Continued on page 2

Pink Runway 2 celebrates the undefeated spirit

Nearly one week after the opening of Aruba's inaugural fashion week, a different sort of catwalk took over the Palm Beach Ballroom of the Westin Resort on Wednesday evening; "Pink Runway", Second Edition attracted a packed house to cheer on the spirit and strength of women who have confronted breast cancer.

Produced as a fundraiser for the Mary Joan Breast Cancer Support Foundation, the event finished Breast Cancer Awareness Month with a flourish. It was also included on the schedule of ARUBA IN STYLE/Salon, a ten-day cultural/fashion program that is



Donation from Yoplait for pink yogurt tops turned in

Rose Walisever (Diva Gorgeous), Joanne Dirks (Diva Figure), Rozina Nava (Diva Most Tall), Rosa van der Biezen (Diva Pretty), Yvonne Pourier (Diva Congeniality), Angelica Morris (Diva Beauty Wig), Bernarda Gumbs (Diva Beautiful Smile), Sandra Croes (Diva Angel Face), Vilma Figaroa (Diva Courage), Nathaly Tromp (Diva Telephon Calls) and Trina Werleman (Diva Cute Face.)

Designers whose works were on display were: Andrew Curiel, Fransisca Gibbs, Darwin Winklaar, Christopher Marta, Linda Ruiz, Mirto Tromp, Andy & Sergio, Gabriela Gateanog, Chelsea Peterson, Alexander Leslie, Grace and Ghislaine

Yrausquin, Jeremy Soul, Ramsis Aron, Michael Douglas and Dilynne Pom.

Continued on page 4



still on-going until November 13. Gijs Stork, the producer of AIS/Salon was one of the "judges" of the evening's models and outfits.

Sixteen models, which are either breast cancer survivors or undergoing treatment, walked the runway, showcasing original creations by local designers in three categories: Sportif, Casual and Formal.

The sixteen models celebrating life and strutting their stuff, each of them a Diva, were Raquel Rasmijn, (Diva Elegante), Jenni Dirks, (Diva Pasarela), Miloushka Maduro (Diva Timida), Rosa Wernet (Diva Licious), Camilla Nicholson (Diva Discipline),



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ELMAR could make history

Continued from page 1

The cost of energy is exuberant in Aruba as most homes use air-conditioning. If our families could change to using the new inverter type airconditioners, we would consume about 50% less energy as this type of airconditioner is much less expensive to operate than the standard type.

The draw back is that the inverter airconditioners, while much more efficient, are quite expensive, much more than the standard type airconditioners. Buying such a unit would pay for itself within the lapse of one year. However, most families who don't have the money to purchase the inverter type airconditioner, simply purchase the standard models. The cost is considerably less than the inverter type, but uses 50% more energy in comparison to the inverter airco's.

The irony of the matter is, just the very families who most need the savings on energy, are the very ones who will be paying more on their electric bills, which, obviously jeopardizes their dire financial situation. Said situation only creates more financial problems for these families, according to Rasmijn. He is of the opinion that since local banks would not normally finance the purchase of airconditioners to families with limited or no resources, he purports that this is something that ELMAR should consider doing. His view is that the very

savings that the consumer who buys the inverter airco through ELMAR receives, could be used to pay off the loan from ELMAR for his inverter unit. This way ELMAR would be guaranteed repayment for the loan extended. Hence, whatever the consumer saves would be paid to ELMAR to payoff his debt for the unit.

In Rasmijn's words ELMAR has a monopoly with respect to the distribution of electricity on Aruba, and they should also have a sense of social responsibility to help families to reduce their energy cost. He is intent on meeting with our electric distribution company, ELMAR and Utilities NV to explore how this project could be enacted with minimum changes in the law.

The Morning News applauds Rasmijn's intentions, but believes that Rasmijn would help families a great deal more if he would encourage ELMAR to install Solar Panels in the homes rather than a single Air-conditioner unit. Having solar energy would mean a substantial reduction in the family's overall energy consumption and could mean a savings of over 75% providing the solar system matches the kilowatt hours required for that home. The payoff system for the consumer suggested by Rasmijn would be the same for the Solar System!

Marcus and Colleen's Dream Wedding

On November 5th, 2011, Colleen Sheive and Marcus Truett, tied the knot on the beautiful beach of Aruba, witnessed by 28 of their closest friends and family. Both Marcus, age 37, and Colleen, 33, are in the Real Estate business in Kissimmee, Florida. They have two wonderful, smart, energetic children, Austin age 6 and Addison age 2.

From the first time Marcus saw Colleen at a trivia competition in Kissimmee, he was mesmerized by her beauty. When they finally met and he



realized how funny and smart she was, he knew she was the only woman for him. Colleen felt the same.

They selected Aruba for

their destination dream wedding because neither had been to Aruba, but had heard so many good things. They are so happy with their choice, they

and their family want to make it a yearly tradition to return.

The wedding was coordinated by Darienne at the Westin Resort, and she was amazing in making the whole experience stress free. Photographer, Diane Keijzer and videographer Ingmar Maduro captured all the beautiful memories.

Colleen's maid of honor was Summer Rawson (friend of 18 yrs), and bridesmaids were Jolene Sheive (sister) and Katrina Catlett (friends since elementary school). Both Marcus's best man, Jan Huet and groomsman, Jim Baillie are long time friends and soccer mates.

by Diane Keijzer --
dianekeijzer@yahoo.com





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Community comradery and focus on the family are new goals for our Barrios

ORANJESTAD -- The government of Aruba has recently made known that they have a new philosophy of our barrios. They want to see a new kind of comradery in all our barrios all over the island. The government's new goal is to focus on the family, the community and to rejuvenate family values to create better communities.

Back in October 2007 the FESCA Foundation organized the first symposium on the topic of comradery on Aruba. Keynote speaker at that event was Prof. Dr. Amitai Etzioni. Etzioni is recognized internationally as the "father" of modern community comradery. He is one of the 100 great thinkers of the world. The 2007 symposium had as its primary focus,

the philosophy of comradery in communities. This train of thought has its main focus on the human being, and inspires us to put norms and values at the center of everything in the community. The belief is that norms and values are what will fortify the life of the family and the ties of friendship as well as the feelings of solidarity for our fellow man in the community and in the family.

According to observers, there are three factors necessary for comradery to take effect in a community, namely, support, the government, the market and community. In a liberal ideology such as social ideology, the state (government) plays a dominant role. In liberal ideology the market plays an authori-

tarian role. However, according to the government of Aruba, in developing a christian democratic ideology the conviction is that this is a social christian form of thinking. The driving force in this form of thought is the community with its focus on shared responsibility.

In this form of thought the citizen is expected to know his rights as well as his responsibilities and that he ought to be committed to his community for the destiny of his community is one of his concerns. Verbal communication is crucially important. Also, strong family ties and the church all contribute to helping citizens in a community to not deviate from the right path, as perported by thinker Etzioni.

The Morning News is of the opinion that Etzioni's ideas may be very novel and perhaps even attractive and applicable to modern day communities. However, way back before the invention of the modern calendar, we learn from Holy Scripture that man cannot find true fulfillment and true meaning in life apart from a personal relationship with God, his maker. Once one is rightly related to God through the regenerating work of God's Holy Spirit and is walking in obedience to God's moral laws, comradery in the family and in the community becomes a natural result of such a life...it really is that simple. So says the



greatest thinker of all time to whom no one can compare or compete, Christ Himself.



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Sinterklaas (or more formally Sint Nicolaas or Sint Nikolaas) is on his way, and Write Here office and school supply is organizing a scrapping competition for all who have a creative mind and a passion for scrapping.

Scrapping stimulates creativity using stickers, tags, colored papers (cardstock), glitter and a diversity of materials to produce personalized pages, albums and cards. All are invited to demonstrate their talent and originality by joining

the competition

Register for the competition at Write Here—deadline to inscribe is November 25; the store is situated across from Ling & Sons Supermarket and everyone is welcome to register in the appropriate age categories.

On December 5, a panel of judges will select the winner in each category. Winners will receive very attractive prizes. The most popular artwork, selected through a voting process among Write Here customers, will also receive a prize.

Pink Runway 2 celebrates the undefeated spirit

Continued from page 1



The Ladies of the Pink Runway 2011



Moda Sportif

The entrance to the Pink Runway was through a poignant exhibition of works by local art photographer Janine Flanigin; a stunning series of tastefully staged upper-body nudes of women

who had undergone mastectomies.

A highlight of the evening was the donation by Jennifer Lopez, Brand Manager of Yoplait Yogurt, which is distributed on Aruba by Frasa

Trading. 18,500 Aruban florins (\$10,550) were the proceeds from the annual "Think Pink" campaign, an international fundraising effort from Yoplait for some years, where a donation is made for each pink Yoplait cover turned in by consumers. The check also included the returns from an annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk staged on Aruba by the foundation and Yoplait.

The Mary Joan Foundation is named after Mary Joan Geerman, a brave island woman who finally succumbed to breast cancer after an eight-year battle. She encouraged Aruban breast cancer patients to "come out of the closet" and instigate dialogs, supporting each other and their families during this distressing and stressful time. Her spirit and memory was also celebrated during this 2nd annual Pink Runway event.

by Rosalie Klein

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Carnival Party tonight at Palm Beach Plaza



Tecla Kelly and SAC staff invite all to the official start of Carnival



Island visitors and resident are all welcome to experience the first taste of Aruba's 58th Annual Carnival, the greatest party on earth, tonight at the Palm Beach Plaza. President of the Stichting Arubaanse Carnaval, or SAC, (which administers Carnival events) Tecla Kelly-Hernandez personally invited one and all to enjoy a gala event on 11/11/11, the date that traditionally marks the official beginning of the Carnival season; the actual events will start with the Torch Parade in January 2012 and end on Ash Wednesday.

This morning at 11 minutes after 11 AM, Caribbean Cinemas will host the formal declaration by Tecla; this is accompanied by the introduction of the Carnival 58 jingle, tee shirt, parade maps and guide and if ready, the annual

edition of Baccanal, the bible of Aruba's Carnival. Aruba's Minister of Economic and Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer Winklaar will be present for this auspicious occasion.

The evening festivities will begin at 7:30 PM, with displays by various carnival groups of their costumes and themes for the 2012; representatives of the groups will be on hand to answer questions and sign up those wishing to participate. Various bands famous for their Carnival compositions, such as Claudius Phillips, who has won the Road March and Calypso King crowns more than a dozen times, Robert J'eandor and Dura. There will be steelpan and brass band performances as well.

When extending their invitation to this evening's event, SAC officials also announced that tickets are now on sale for their annual fundraising gala dinner dance. This will take place at the Renaissance Convention Center on Saturday, November 26 beginning at 7:30 PM until 2:00 A.M. Tickets for the ball are \$100 per person, with entertainment by Robert J'eandor and Tsunami. Tickets can be purchased at the SAC office in Dakota.

by Rosalie Klein



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Aruban lawyer Michael Lopez no longer represents Gary Giordano

ORANJESTAD -- Maryland businessman Gary Giordano was taken into custody on August 5, 2011 by Aruban authorities as a Person of Interest in the disappearance of Robyn Gardner on August 2. He had called in help to Aruba's south shore in the early evening claiming Gardner had been swept out to sea while the two were snorkeling offshore. No sign of Gardner, also from Maryland, has been found.

Circumstance prompted authorities to detain and question Girodano, and as is required by Dutch law, the prosecutor's office and his attorney, Michael Lopez, appeared a number of times before the judge when the question of his continued detention was to be decided.

Each time, the judge decided to keep Mr. Giordano to allow the prosecutor's office to build their case; this is indicative, but not final, that they felt the circumstances merited further detention and investiga-



Gary Giordano

tion. After a failed appeal for his release following a decision on September 1 that he remains incarcerated for another 60 days, Mr. Giordano brought in local lawyer Chris Lejuez to consult on the case. His family also hired high profile attorney Jose Baez, who successfully defended Casey Anthony, as a consultant on the case.

Media sources received an official notice from the offices

of Michael Lopez yesterday that he is no longer representing Mr. Giordano:

"LopezLaw would like to inform you that as of November 8, 2011 he will no longer be representing Mr. Gary Giordano in his Court case.

As stated previously by our law firm in Courts, there is no proof whatsoever that Mr. Giordano has committed an offense. With arguments and facts presented by LopezLaw against the assumptions by the District Attorney, Mr. Giordano soon will have to be released.

We wish Mr. Giordano all kind of success in his further endeavors."

The notice does indicate in any way if the choice was that of LopezLaw to no longer represent Mr. Giordano, or if it was his choice to change attorneys.

by Rosalie Klein

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

France's Roma expulsions violated rights -- Europe council

STRASBOURG (AFP) - France violated the human rights of Roma who were forcibly expelled from the country last year, the Council of Europe said yesterday, asking Paris what steps it was taking to remedy the action.

The council, a rights watchdog for its 47 member states, on Wednesday released the findings of a report into the expulsions which ruled that they targeted people by ethnic origin.

They were "discriminatory" and "contrary to human dignity," constituting an "aggravated violation of human rights," said the report.

The expulsions triggered fierce controversy in France and a war of words between President Nicolas Sarkozy and the European Union.

The expulsions ran counter to rights to housing and protections against expulsion enshrined in the European Social Charter, according to the report issued in June this year by the Council of Europe's Committee of Social Rights, which

monitors compliance with the charter.

The committee, investigating a complaint from the Center of Housing Rights and Evictions, a Geneva-based NGO, ruled that the expulsions took place in a "climate of ethnic discrimination and force" and were aimed specifically at "vulnerable groups."

Coinciding with the release of the report, the council also asked France to indicate what steps it was taking to remedy the rights violation, Regis Brilhat, the secretary of the social rights committee, told a press conference in Strasbourg yesterday.

France began expelling Roma last summer but following a public outcry the interior ministry repealed an order to police which specifically said the priority was to expel the minority groups.

The order was replaced in September by one which made no reference to Roma.

France claimed the expulsions were "voluntary" repatriations only.

The committee dismissed the argument, saying "the so-called voluntary returns were in fact disguised forced repatriations in the form of collective expulsions."

Dutch customs seize 20 M contraband cigarettes

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch customs officials said yesterday they seized more than 20 million contraband cigarettes in a city in the south of the Netherlands, which were apparently bound for the British market.

"Customs officials went to a hangar belonging to a transport company in Maarheeze and found a tractor trailer there, filled with cigarettes," a customs spokeswoman, Gera van Weenum, told AFP.

She said the seizure of the contraband cigarettes, which took place Tuesday evening, was "one of the biggest ever", adding: "Usually when we make a big seizure, in the port of Rotterdam for instance, we find 10 million cigarettes, not more."

The resale value of the cigarettes was estimated at four million euros (\$5.4 million). It was not yet known where the cigarettes came from.

"We think that the cigarettes were meant to go to the British market but we need to wait for the results of the inquiry to be sure," the spokeswoman said.

No arrests have yet been made, she added.

In 2009 Dutch customs officials seized a total of around 210 million contraband cigarettes, officials said.



SLIEMA, Malta : Suha Arafat poses in front of a portrait of her late husband Yasser Arafat at her home in Malta on November 10, 2011, on the eve of the seventh anniversary of his death. Yasser Arafat died on November 11, 2004 in a French hospital. A Tunisian court has issued an international arrest warrant against the widow of the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat over alleged corruption, a justice official said on October 31. Suha Arafat, who was stripped of her Tunisian citizenship in 2007 following a dispute with the former ruling family and currently lives in Malta, vehemently denied any corruption allegations and said she was ready to lay the case bare.
AFP PHOTO

Cabinet talks after Greek government deal

ATHENS (AFP) - Officials from the three political parties backing Greece's new unity government met yesterday evening to hammer out a cabinet, a conservative party source said.

The outgoing ruling socialist party Pasok talked with the main opposition conservative New Democracy party and the smaller Laos nationalists, the source told AFP.

To Vima weekly added that Greece's new prime minister-in-waiting, former European Central Bank vice-president Lucas Papademos, also invited two more parties to the discussion -- liberal Democratic Alliance and moderate left Democratic Left party.

It was unclear whether the new cabinet would be announced today, when the government is scheduled to be sworn in at 1200 GMT.

The Greek head of state President Karolos Papoulias

earlier on Thursday gave a mandate to Papademos after a power-sharing deal between Pasok, New Democracy and LAOS designed to restore stability in the crisis-hit eurozone nation.

The country had been in agony after France and Germany last week gave Athens a stark choice, to pass more belt-tightening measures or leave the euro.

Greece's new leader Lucas Papademos steered his country for tough times ahead on Thursday, as he assured Greeks of the need for the euro after being named to head a crisis government.

In his maiden statements yesterday, Papademos said "no exact time" had been set, but that an earlier call by the main political parties for a snap ballot immediately after the EU deal is ratified was a "point of reference."



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Egypt bars Dutch MP for racism

CAIRO (AFP) - Egypt has refused entry to a Dutch MP, a member of the far-right Party for Freedom (PVV), for what it termed racist comments and hostility to Egypt's government, the foreign ministry said yesterday.

Cairo's rejection of Raymond De Roan resulted in an eight-member delegation of the Dutch Foreign Commission, which included the MP, cancelling its visit on Wednesday.

"They are of the opinion if one delegate cannot go, none of them should go," Dutch parliamentary spokesman David van der Houwen told AFP.

Egypt's foreign ministry spokesman Amr Roshdi said: "Mr De Roan recently told the Dutch parliament that Egypt practised ethnic cleansing, describing its government as a dictatorship. These statements constitute incitement to racism, punished by national and international law, and a legal foundation sufficient not to grant him a visa."

De Roan, 59, made his comment after a demonstration by Coptic Christians on October 9 in Cairo which degenerated into a confrontation with the military and security forces, causing 25 deaths, the Dutch parliament-



Raymond De Roan

tary spokesman said.

Dutch Foreign Minister Uri Rosenthal said in a statement he "can fully understand why the committee came to the decision" to cancel the trip, adding that "De Roan used his democratic right as an MP to voice an opinion."

The PVV party of Geert Wilders, with 24 seats of the 150 in the lower house of parliament, opposes what it calls the "Islamisation" of the Netherlands. It lends its support to a center-right coalition in the parliament.

Press: Basque group ETA considers disarmament

MADRID (AFP) - Basque separatist group ETA is considering laying down its weapons, it said in comments published yesterday, after last month declaring an end to more than 40 years of bombing and shooting.

"Disarmament is on the agenda and ETA is willing to make commitments," the Basque newspaper Gara quoted ETA as saying in an interview with two of its spokespeople, in extracts published on its website.

Gara said the interview would be published in full today.

ETA announced in a video

Carros: An excavating vehicle is seen in the water after heavy rain hit the region in the French southern city of Carros.

An unusual, stubborn low pressure system in the Mediterranean Sea has brought heavy rain and tropical storm-like conditions to parts of Italy and southern France over the past week. Torrential rains have inundated coastal regions and caused disastrous flooding in inland towns at higher elevations.

In southeast France, authorities evacuated thou-



sands of people, as flooded streets and cresting rivers

have killed at least three and stranded hundreds of others.

Egypt closes pyramid to avoid 11/11/11 rituals

CAIRO (AFP) - Egypt closed the Great Pyramid of Giza today to avoid any rituals by a group rumoured to have plans to mark the date of 11/11/11 at the site, an official said.

The decision came "after much pressure" from Egyptian

Internet users that strange rituals were going to be held "within the walls of the pyramid today," Atef Abu Zahab, head of the Department of Pharaonic Archaeology, told AFP.

The Supreme Council of Antiquities confirmed the closure today of the tourist site, in a statement that only referred to the need for maintenance following a busy period during Muslim holidays.

The Pyramid of Cheops is the biggest and most famous of the three Giza pyramids. It houses the tomb of Pharaoh Khufu, and is the only surviving one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Numerologists are anxiously awaiting today, when the digital alignment of ones occurs at 11:11 am, which some believe will lead to unusual events.

Thousands of people plan to meet at the time around the world for ceremonial dances, and several pages devoted to the date have appeared on social networking website Facebook.

Some attribute the number 11 to paranormal powers that provide a channel of communication with the subconscious, others see a mystical connection between the number and disasters, like the 9/11 attacks on the United States.

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Health & Living

EEG scan helped contact patients in vegetative state



PARIS (AFP) - Electro-encephalography (EEG) helped doctors realise that several patients diagnosed as being in a permanently vegetative state were in fact aware, according to a study published on Thursday in *The Lancet*.

The technique could be developed as a portable, cheaper way of helping doctors make more accurate diagnoses and establish contact with patients who are immobile but aware, its authors say.

A persistent or permanent vegetative state is defined as "wakefulness without conscious awareness of self and environment." During a coma, by contrast, a patient lacks both awareness and wakefulness.

Researchers led by Adrian Owen and Damian Cruse at the Centre for Brain and Mind at the University of Western Ontario, Canada, carried out a test involving 16 brain-damaged patients in the vegetative state and 12 healthy controls.

EEG entails placing sensors on the scalp to record electrical signals that result from activity by brain cells.

Three of the 16 patients accurately and persistently showed a clear EEG response when they were asked to imagine movements of their right hand and toes, according to the paper.

Electrical signals on the top of their scalp matched those of the controls when the patients were asked to carry out this motor movement, even though their bodies did not make any motion.

The authors say they do not presume to draw conclusions about the "inner worlds" of the three patients on the basis of this experiment.

But they note that understanding the request and processing it in the brain was complex, requiring sustained attention, selecting the right response and understanding language.

"Despite rigorous clinical

assessment, many patients in the vegetative state are misdiagnosed," the researchers say.

The technique is considered less sensitive than functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), which monitors brain flow across the brain and has been used in several important experiments to determine awareness among vegetative patients.

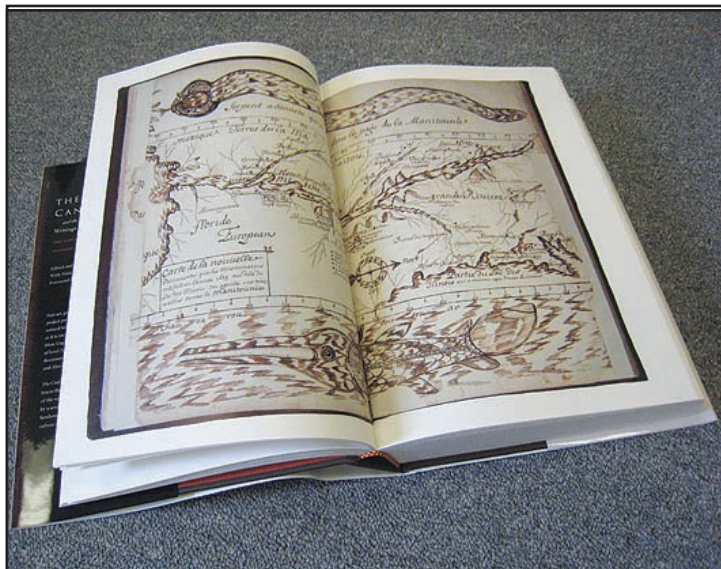
But fMRI scanners are very expensive and cannot be used on patients with metal in their body, often the case with patients whose severe brain damage occurs in a car accident.

EEG diagnosis, if refined, could move beyond simple "yes/no" responses to include methods of communication that are more expressive, the authors say.

Development of techniques for real-time classification of different forms of mental imagery "will enable two-way communication with some of these patients, allowing them to share information about their inner worlds, experiences and needs," they conclude.

As opposed to brain death, persistent vegetative state is not recognised by legal systems as death.

"Lock-in" syndrome describes a condition in which mental functioning is normal, but the body inert and incapable of responding to commands.



An illustrated book called "The Codex Canadensis and the Writings of Louis Nicolas" describing Canada's vast wilds, masked medicine men and a missionary's taming of bears at the dawn of European colonization is viewed on November 10, 2011 in Ottawa, Ontario. This photo of the book shows a map of New France created in the late 1600s by a Jesuit missionary named Louis Nicolas. It is believed to be the first concise natural history of North America, and will hit bookstores on November 12, 2011, three centuries after it was written.

AFP PHOTO



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Solitary confinement a mental health risk: rights body



STRASBOURG (AFP) - Solitary confinement should be a rare punishment in prisons and limited to 14 days, the Council of Europe said, raising concern about practices in France and Ireland.

"Isolation can have extremely damaging effects on mental health," Letif Huseynov, the president of the council's Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) said at a press conference in Strasbourg.

The committee said in a report that 14 days should be a maximum punishment for solitary confinement but practices varied from country to country.

It runs from three days in Scotland, to "30 in France and 56 in Ireland, which is far too much", said the committee's deputy secretary Fabrice Kellens.

Suicide rates are higher among inmates in solitary confinement than in the wider

prison population, the CPT report said.

The committee said that it was alarmed that in some countries including Italy and Russia courts have the right to sentence defendants to parts of their prison terms in solitary.

"Prison is punishment in itself and any aggravation of that as part of the sanction is unacceptable," the CPT said.

The committee has for the past 21 years conducted visits to prisons, detention centres, psychiatric hospitals and police stations of the Council of Europe's 47 member states as part of the body's mission to protect human rights and prevent torture and abuse.

Results of these visits are published only with the consent of the countries concerned. Russia has consistently opposed publication, with just one of 18 reports on the country being released, said Huseynov.



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Sci-Tech

BlackBerry services 'normal' despite earlier probe tweet



(AFP) - Research In Motion said late Wednesday that BlackBerry services are working normally after earlier announcing a probe into reports that users hit by a recent outage were still experiencing email woes.

"BlackBerry services are currently operating normally in the EMEA regions," the company said in a statement, referring to Europe, the Middle East, India and Africa.

A giant service outage last month affected millions of people worldwide and the Canadian company had said in a tweet Wednesday that it was "getting reports that some users are experiencing delays," and promised to update users.

RIM's network services for the popular smartphone were down intermittently for up to three days in October in western Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and North and South America.

RIM blamed the failure of

a "core switch" at a facility in Europe as well as a backup mechanism for the initial problem, knocking out emails

Adobe pulls plug on Flash for mobile

(AFP) - US software maker Adobe pulled the plug on its Flash player for mobile browsers, which Apple's late chief executive Steve Jobs refused to allow on the iPhone and iPad.

Adobe announced in a blog post it would concentrate future development efforts on the HTML5 format, which was favored by Jobs over the Flash player widely used to view videos online.

"However, HTML5 is now universally supported on major mobile devices, in some cases exclusively," Adobe general manager of interactive development Danny Winokur said in a blog post. "This

and messaging for users.

The problems cascaded as emails backed up at the company's server hubs.

RIM has set out to make amends with customers by offering \$100 worth of premium applications such as games and hands-free operating programs.

Meanwhile, lawsuits in the United States and Canada were filed seeking class action status to represent all BlackBerry users in the respective countries and call for RIM to pay unspecified cash damages.

RIM's stock fell 3.11 percent Wednesday in Toronto to CAN\$18.14 (US\$17.74).

makes HTML5 the best solution for creating and deploying content in the browser across mobile platforms.

"We will no longer continue to develop Flash Player in the browser to work with new mobile device configurations following the upcoming release of Flash Player 11.1 for Android and BlackBerry PlayBook," he added.

Winokur said he was "excited" about the move, and vowed to work with companies like Google, Apple, Microsoft and RIM "to drive HTML5 innovation they can use to advance their mobile browsers."

In contrast to the iPad, tablet computers powered by Android, the operating system from Google, and the PlayBook from RIM are capable of running Flash and this ability has been touted as a selling point by their manufacturers.

Adobe's Flash announcement came a day after the San Jose, California-based company said it was cutting 750 jobs, nearly eight percent of its workforce.

The firm said it was eliminating the positions in North America and Europe as part of a restructuring that will see Adobe devote more resources to digital media and marketing.

Besides Flash, other well-known Adobe products include Photoshop and Adobe Reader, which manages PDF files.

Adobe shares were down 8.76 percent at \$27.76 on Wall Street in mid-day trading on Wednesday.

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World's smallest four-wheel-drive is a billionth of a metre

PARIS (AFP) - Scientists in the Netherlands said on Wednesday they had made a four-wheeled molecule that measures just a billionth of a metre -- 60,000 times smaller than the thickness of a human hair -- and moves in response to a burst of electrons.

The nanometre-sized molecule comprises a central body to which four rotary units, each comprising a few atoms, are attached.

The nanocar is propelled and steered thanks to energy input from a tunnelling elec-

tron microscope.

By firing electrons, the microscope induces a change in the interaction between the rotors and a copper surface. As a result, the rotors move around like paddle wheels and drive the wee molecule forward.

The research, reported in the journal Nature, is headed by Ben Feringa, a professor at the University of Groningen.

It marks a new step in a field that developed about half a dozen years ago and sees practical outlets in medicine and nanoscale engineering.

Brazil court refuses to stop work on Amazon dam

BRASILIA (AFP) - A federal court on Wednesday rejected an appeal for suspending construction of Brazil's controversial \$11 billion Belo Monte hydroelectric dam in the heart of the Amazon until after indigenous people have been consulted.

The court, based in Brasilia, upheld a legislative decree that authorized construction, which is opposed by environmentalists and Amazon Indian tribes who say the dam will cause massive destruction of fauna and flora in the area.

Maria do Carmo Cardoso, a court judge, held that while the indigenous communities are entitled to being consulted, the law does not say that this must be done before approval of the work.

Last month more than 400 activists occupied the site of

what would be the third biggest dam in the world -- after China's Three Gorges dam and the Itaipu dam on the border of Brazil and Paraguay.

Construction of the Belo Monte dam -- which would produce more than 11,000 megawatts, or about 11 percent of Brazil's current installed capacity -- has been the subject of legal wrangling for decades.

The project is expected to employ 20,000 people directly in construction, flood an area of 500 square kilometers (200 square miles) along the Xingu river and displace 16,000 persons.

The government had pledged to minimize the environmental and social impact of the dam and asserted that no traditional indigenous land was to be affected.



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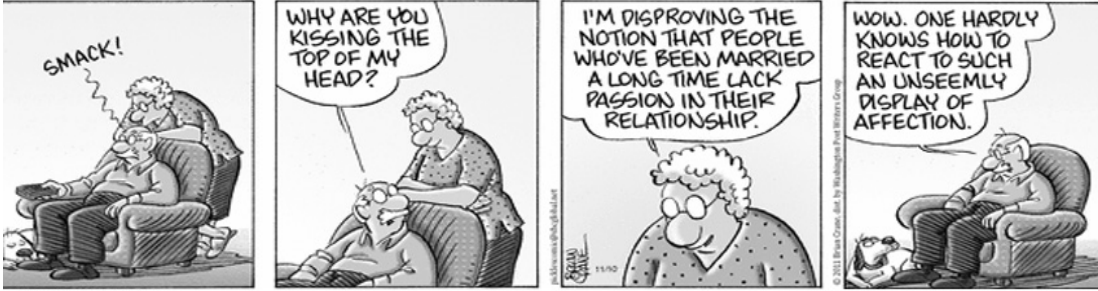
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ACROSS

1. Start to awaken
5. Blue-to-white twinkler
10. ___ were
14. Fountain drink
15. Bank founder Salmon
16. Used the subway
17. Grace finale
18. Copland or Spelling
19. Active type
20. Luggage carrier
22. Maryland battle site
24. Burden
26. Attain through work
27. City north of Lubbock
31. Javelins
35. Dapper gent
36. Swindle
37. Author Zora ___ Hurston
38. Territory
40. "No ___ plot can be sensible" (Auden)
43. Make a cursory inspection
44. Board
46. Take's antonym
48. Coal units: abbr.
49. Shredded
51. Nathan sang "Sue Me" to her
53. AKA Mars
55. Tizzy
56. Scotland's "Granite City"
60. Tie up
64. Dig
65. Hawaiian island
67. Soffit locale
68. "___ Sprach Zarathustra"
69. Author Gilchrist

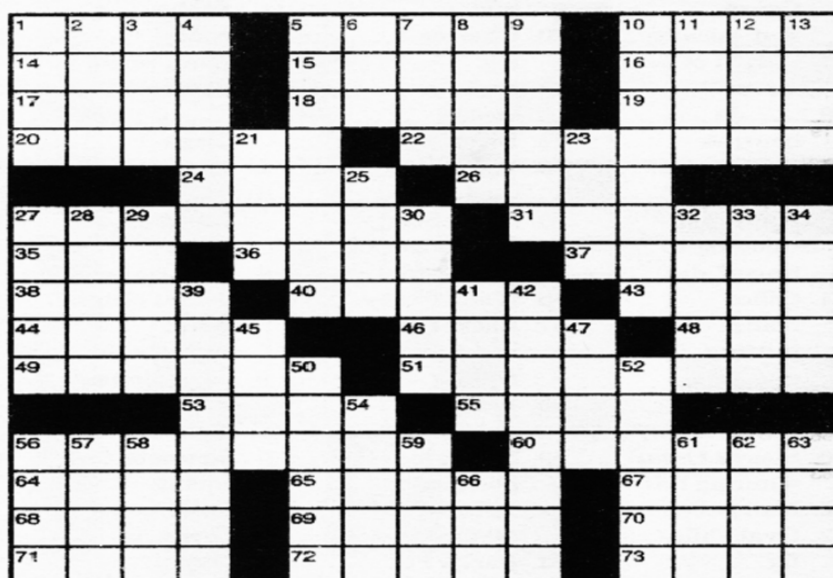
70. Tommy's gun
71. Gneecchi's Cassandra, e.g.
72. Confederate signature
73. Watch over

DOWN

1. Sign of a sloppy plastic surgeon
2. Librarian's burden
3. "Where Is the Life That Late ___?"
4. Bitter resentment
5. Mexican resort
6. Doo-wop syllable
7. Scarlett's first love
8. Together
9. Income property
10. "Battle of the Bulge"

11. Chimney buildup
12. Supposition
13. Two years in the House, e.g.
21. Latin American liqueur
23. Where the dinero is in dinars
25. Noisy blow
27. Change to fit conditions
28. That girl from "That Girl"
29. Close, to Coleridge
30. Rolex competitor
32. Desert flora
33. Gemsbok's kin
34. Orientation
39. Home of the Wolverines
41. Purges
42. One of Rome's seven hills

45. Certain Afghan
47. Sculptor Nadelman
50. Surprise ruiner, perhaps
52. Bear witness
54. Cinematographer John ("The English Patient")
56. Arabian garments
57. Hay hexahedron
58. Gaelic
59. ___ and void
61. Destructive emotion
62. No longer in need of revenge
63. Rive
66. Letters after a Boeing builder's name



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Numbers

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Horacio Oduber Hospital
Tel. 5274000

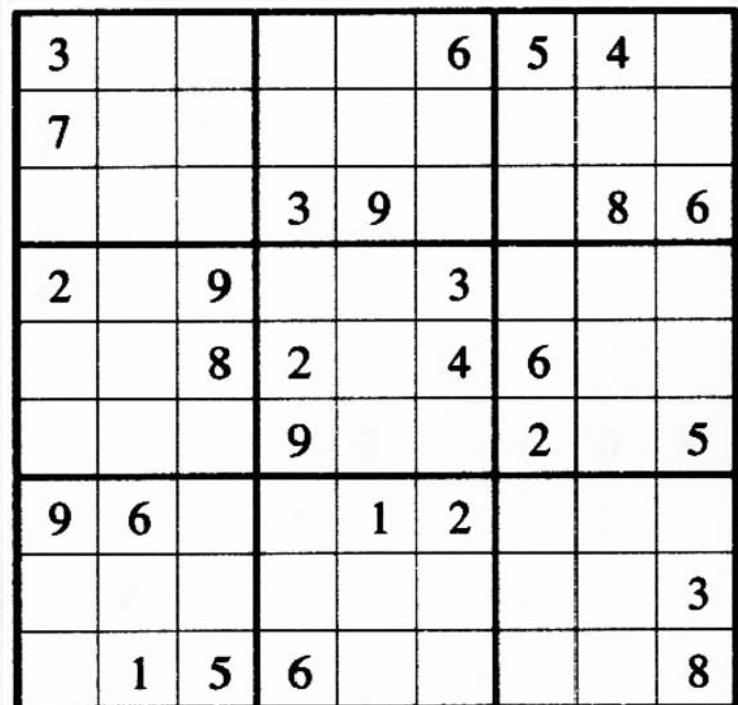
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5	9	1	6	7	5	2	8	4
2	5	7	2	1	8	9	6	3
5	1	2	8	4	6	7	9	3
6	5	9	7	5	2	8	1	4
7	2	8	9	1	6	5	2	4
9	8	1	6	5	2	7	3	4
1	6	5	2	7	9	8	4	3
2	7	5	9	8	1	6	4	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

Merkel: Germany aims to save eurozone in current form

BERLIN (AFP) - Chancellor Angela Merkel said yesterday that Germany aims to preserve the eurozone as it is, dismissing reports that Berlin was laying the groundwork for a currency union shed of its troublemakers.

"We have a single goal and it is to stabilize the eurozone as it is today, to make it more competitive, to make progress in balancing budgets," she told reporters when asked whether the eurozone must prepare for debt-mired Italy to exit.

"We believe this common euro area is also capable of thoroughly winning back its credibility, that means for every single country," she said

after talks with Romanian President Traian Basescu.

"That is the reason we have always said that solidarity with a country is linked to efforts toward budgetary consolidation."

Merkel's comments were a clear declaration that Germany, the paymaster for the eurozone's rescue fund, was not ready to give up on its ailing partners just yet.

However she said a clarification of Rome's political course was "extremely important for Italy's credibility" in the wake of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's announcement he would step aside after economic reforms are adopted.

Merkel also wished a new Greek government "all possible success" in grappling with its own debt drama, which has plunged the eurozone into the worst crisis in its history.

"Germany will do all it can to work as well as possible" with the new administration, after Greek President Karolos Papoulias asked former European Central Bank vice-president Lucas Papademos to form a new government.

Reports earlier said that Germany and France had discussed a possible breakup of the eurozone in the face of the debt crisis roiling global markets.

Germany's Handelsblatt daily said Merkel's ruling CDU party planned to debate a motion next week calling for countries to be allowed to quit the eurozone without necessarily leaving the European Union at the same time.

Merkel's spokesman Stefan Seibert took to microblogging website Twitter to call reports Germany was pursuing plans for a smaller eurozone "false".

"The German government, on the contrary, wants to stabilise the eurozone as a whole," he said.

A French source also dismissed the reports out of hand, saying there were no plans to shrink the ranks of the 17-member eurozone.

And eurozone chief Jean-Claude Juncker called the notion "stupidity" aimed at driving a wedge through the monetary union and added it had "no chance of being realized", while on a visit to Portugal.



Washington: Noel Ortega with the Freedom Plaza Occupation, Backbone Campaign & Economic Justice Allies protests from a makeshift "underwater home" on November 10, 2011 to Demand Mortgage Correction in front of the Federal Housing Finance Administration (FHFA) in Washington, DC. Demonstrators are demanding that the FHFA force Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to reduce principal to the actual value of houses. Underwater mortgage debt is one of the primary drags on economic recovery. It continues to devour tens of billions of dollars annually, money that would otherwise go into our economy in the form of consumer spending. (AFP PHOTO)

Brazil sees 'lost decade' for crisis-hit rich countries

BRASILIA (AFP) - Crisis-hit rich countries face a "lost decade" while the rest of the world must brace for low

growth for many years, Brazilian Finance Minister Guido Mantega said yesterday.

"We must expect problems of low world growth for many years," he said during the signing of legislation on a tax stimulus for small and medium enterprises.

He said he shared IMF chief Christine Lagarde's pessimistic view of the global economy.

"If we do not act together, the economy around the world runs the risk of a downward spiral of uncertainty, financial instability," Lagarde, on a visit to China, warned Wednesday.

"I tend to agree with the managing director of the IMF that we are going to have a lost decade. Clearly advanced countries may face a lost decade, but I believe that won't be the case for Brazil," Mantega said.

He said the eurozone debt crisis which now hits big countries such as Italy had no easy solution but felt confident that the European Union would succeed in resolving it.

As for Brazil, he said: "We have the conditions to react, to neutralize the crisis," citing the fiscal strength and the large domestic market of Latin America's biggest economy.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

EKG SIAMUS DEAH
 RIO CLIFT PAMPA
 INOCULATE EMBER
 SESAME EMIR AXE
 REB GIN AMOR
 SCRAM NARROW
 HEN HONI SNEAKA
 ARENA DST ESSES
 RECORE SIGN SHH
 PIETAS PELTS
 SECT ESE PTA
 ASS TELL AFIELD
 PEALE ELIMINATE
 ERROR NEWER SEA
 DAYS ODORS ERN



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Britain	GBP	2.780	2.830	2.890
Switzerland	CHF	1.9679	1.9751	1.9831
Netherlands	EUR	2.4031	2.4251	2.4495
Sweden	SEK	0.2577	0.2649	0.2729
Denmark	DKK	0.3163	0.3235	0.3315
Norway	NOK	0.3036	0.3108	0.3188
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Eddie Murphy quits as Oscars host



(AFP) Veteran star Eddie Murphy and his long-time producer friend Brett Ratner.

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Veteran Hollywood star Eddie Murphy quit as host of this year's Oscars, one day after the show's producer resigned for making an anti-gay comment, organizers said.

Within hours of Murphy's departure, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced a replacement for Brett Ratner, who stepped down Tuesday as producer of Hollywood's annual awards.

There was no immediate announcement of who will

take Murphy's place at the February 26 Oscars show.

"I appreciate how Eddie feels about losing his creative partner, Brett Ratner, and we all wish him well," said Academy President Tom Sherak, scrambling to deal with the double change of personnel barely three months before the awards season climax.

Murphy said: "First and foremost, I want to say that I completely understand and support each party's decision with regard to a change of pro-

ducers for this year's Academy Awards ceremony.

"I was truly looking forward to being a part of the show that our production team and writers were just starting to develop, but I'm sure that the new production team and host will do an equally great job," he added in the Oscars statement.

Murphy, named in September to Tinseltown's top hosting job, was seen as a safe pair of hands after last year's Oscars co-hosts Anne Hathaway and James Franco. The latter was notably criticized for a wooden performance.

At the time he was chosen, Murphy, who gained fame on TV show Saturday Night Live in the early 1980s before breaking onto the big screen, said he was looking forward to the gig.

But his withdrawal was not unexpected following that of Ratner -- director of current box office hit "Tower Heist," in which Murphy stars -- who has made a series of close-to-the-bone comments in recent days.

Taylor Swift, The Band Perry big winners at CMA awards



WASHINGTON, November 10, 2011 (AFP) - Taylor Swift took the most-coveted entertainer of the year award for the second time Wednesday and newcomers The Band Perry reaped a hat trick of honors at the 45th Country Music Awards.

"I'm so happy right now... You've made my year. Thank you so much," said the 21-year-old singer-songwriter with the supermodel looks at the climax of a three-hour gala

in country music's capital city of Nashville, Tennessee.

Just minutes earlier, Swift -- whose "Speak Now" has been one of the year's top country albums -- looked bewildered when she was passed up for female singer of the year and three other categories for which she had been nominated.

Swift last won entertainer of the year -- the top honor at the most prestigious of country music's many award evenings -- in 2009, the youngest artist ever to do so.

Taking the evening by storm was Tennessee sibling trio The Band Perry, who first won single of the year for their melancholic hit "If I Die Young," then song of the year, and then best new artist.

Kristian Bush and Jennifer Nettles, who perform as Sugarland, won best vocal duo three months after tragedy struck their latest concert tour when an Indiana stage on which they were about to per-

form collapsed, killing seven people.

Jason Aldean won album of the year for "My Kind of Party." Nashville's Lady Antebellum took best vocal group. Blake Shelton picked up best male vocalist honors and Miranda Lambert won for best female vocalist.

Going home empty-handed was Brad Paisley, last year's entertainer of the year, who had to make do with the memory of co-hosting the evening with "American Idol" alumnus and three-time best female vocalist Carrie Underwood.

Musical performances included Swift in a bright pink sweater on a living room sofa playing a solo acoustic version of "Ours," and soul legend Lionel Richie, who belted out three numbers from his upcoming album of country duets.

Mercifully not singing was Miss Piggy, who made a brief appearance alongside Paisley and Underwood in support of "The Muppets," due out in movie theaters later this month.



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<p>EGG DISHES *2 eggs sunny side up with ham & cheese *Scrambled with ham, cheese, onions, green pepper, tomato, mushroom *Plain omelettes with ham, cheese, onion, green pepper, tomato, mushroom</p> <p>All egg dishes are served with a choice of : white or whole wheat baguette or sliced toasted bread.</p> <p>*PASTECHEI HORNA *CRÊPES *SWEET CRÊPES *BAGEL with cream cheese, smoked salmon, boiled egg</p>	<p>LOCAL BREAKFAST *Pan grandi (di rama) or baguette *KERRIE-KERRIE (FISH) *CONCH *FISH EGG *SHRIMPS *FISH FILLET *FISH CAKE *CHICKEN SOUP</p> <p>*FRUIT SALAD & YOGHURT *HOT BEVERAGES *COLD BEVERAGES</p>
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Shakira sweeping



LAS VEGAS : Recording Academy President Neil Portnow (L) gives honoree Shakira (C) the trophy as singer Marc Anthony looks on during the 2011 Latin Recording Academy's Person of the Year honoring Shakira at Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino on November 9, 2011 in Las Vegas, Nevada.
AFP Photo



LOS ANGELES -Colombian singer, songwriter, musician, Shakira became the first Colombian artist to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Tuesday, Shakira, 34, rose to fame in Latin America in the 1990s with her album "Pies Descalzos" and singles such as "Donde Estan Los Ladrones?" and "Estoy Aqui." Her second official album, "Donde Estan Los Ladrones?" garnered international success. The Latin singer then produced an English crossover album, "Laundry Service," following in the footsteps of other famous bilingual artists.



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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers,

airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoast-aruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger

Expatriates residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S. franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what



Rosie and Aaron love their burger too



Gouda Burger 2

they really want has resulted in a unique menu.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato... whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are

made from hand-cut fresh Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner - daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner or Manager Marc Anthony when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit

SPORT

Tennis: Federer holds course for first Paris Masters final



Switzerland's Roger Federer returns the ball to France's Richard Gasquet.

PARIS(AFP) - Roger Federer closed on a first ever Paris Masters final when he beat Richard Gasquet to reach the quarter-finals on Thursday, after Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray had swept into the last eight.

Federer, the third seed, broke the home favourite in the opening service game of their evening match at Bercy Arena and secured another break when Gasquet double-faulted at 2-4 down, before clinching the set with a non-chalant volley.

After an early exchange of breaks in the second set, Federer broke again and went on to complete a 6-2, 6-4 victory with an inside-out forehand winner on his first match point.

Federer will meet Juan Monaco in the last eight, after the unseeded Argentine sur-

vived two match points against American seventh seed Mardy Fish, who was forced to retire with a hamstring injury when leading 6-1, 6-7 (6/8), 2-1.

Djokovic overcame a first-set wobble to beat Serbian countryman Viktor Troicki 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

The world number one was broken twice in the first set and folded on Troicki's first set point when he drove a backhand into the net.

Djokovic went 2-0 up in the second set, only for Troicki to level, but the top seed broke again to go 4-2 ahead with a cross-court backhand winner before levelling the match.

Troicki had lost his last nine encounters with Djokovic and the 15th seed's resistance broke apart in the third set, enabling the 2009 champion here to complete his comeback and take his place in the last eight.

"It was a difficult match," said Djokovic, whose partici-

pation in the tournament had been threatened by the recurrence of a shoulder problem.

Djokovic will meet sixth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, the 2008 champion, for a place in the semi-finals after the Frenchman overcame Italy's Andreas Seppi 6-3, 6-4.

In-form Murray made it 18 games unbeaten with an impressive 6-2, 6-2 win over Andy Roddick that took just 62 minutes and reduced the American number 13 seed to angrily smashing his racquet half-way through the second set.

"I started the match well, which is always important against Roddick because he plays his best when he's ahead and can put pressure on you," said the Scot.

Murray, the second seed, will now face Czech fifth seed and 2005 champion Tomas Berdych, who beat 11th-seeded Serbian Janko Tipsarevic in straight sets.

Tipsarevic's defeat means the line-up for the year-end ATP Tour Finals in London has now been finalised, with Berdych, Tsonga and Fish claiming the three places that were up for grabs at the start of the week.

Fish's withdrawal against Monaco means he faces a race against time to get fit for the start of the November 20-27 event, but he said he would be prepared to play regardless of the condition of his hamstring.

"I'll certainly play in London," he said. "There's no doubt about that. Even if it's torn, I'm still going to try to play."

Spanish fourth seed David Ferrer continued his serene progress to the last eight by winning 6-3, 6-2 against Alexandr Dolgoplov of Ukraine.

Baseball: Posada says his days as Yankee is over



NEW YORK (AFP) - Catcher Jorge Posada said Wednesday he won't return to the New York Yankees next season,

and he'll either join another team or retire after 17 years in Major League Baseball.

"I don't think there's not even a percentage of chance that I can come back," Posada, 40, said prior to his charitable foundation's annual dinner.

Posada about half a dozen teams had expressed interest in him through his agents, but he doesn't expect



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NBA: League still in limbo after marathon talks

NEW YORK (AFP) - NBA owners and players talked for nearly 12 hours on Wednesday and will meet again on today, but neither side sounded optimistic of a breakthrough in the bid to get the season started.

League commissioner David Stern, who said Sunday that the players had until "close of business" on Wednesday to accept the NBA's latest offer, emerged from the marathon talks saying the league has "stopped the clock" and will continue to negotiate.

Players association president Derek Fisher also emerged from the day with little encouraging to say.

"We can't say there was significant progress today," Fisher said. "We'll be back tomorrow ... and we'll see if we can continue to make the effort to at least to finish this out."

The two sides are trying to hammer out a new collective contract that would put an end to the 132-day lockout of players by owners and pave the way for a belated start to the season.

The league has already

wiped out all of the games scheduled in November -- a month's worth of action in a campaign that was to have started November 1.

Stern has said that once the sides reach a handshake deal it would likely take another 30 days to get games on court.

While the fact that talks are to continue seems to be good news, it's also clear that if no agreement is reached soon more games will shortly be lost.

Players received 57 percent of basketball-related income under their previous contract, but have said they would be willing to drop that to 52.5 percent.

The latest offer from owners would give the players between 49-51 percent of basketball-related income, depending on revenue growth.

If this round of talks fail Stern has said the league would withdraw its current offer and replace it with one featuring a 53-47 revenue split in owners' favor.

Such a move would likely push players toward the more drastic measure of decertification and legal action.

when I don't know what I want to do."

Posada has spent all of his major league career with the Yankees, and said he didn't know if he wanted to start over with a new team at this point.

"The New York Yankees for me is my second family. It will be tough to put on another uniform for real and learn another set of rules and all that stuff."

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Nats catcher Ramos kidnapped in Venezuela

CARACAS (AFP) - Washington Nationals catcher Wilson Ramos has been kidnapped in his native Venezuela, a spokeswoman for his Venezuelan League team, the Aragua Tigers, said Wednesday.

Spokeswoman Kathe Vilera said via her Twitter account that "this is sad, worrisome and true that Wilson Ramos has been kidnapped."

She said Ramos was taken by four armed men near his home in Santa Ines in central Venezuela.



The Nationals acquired Ramos, 24, from the Minnesota Twins in a trade in July 2010. As a rookie in 2011 he hit .267 with 15 home runs and 52 RBIs in 113 games.

According to club officials, Venezuelan authorities have been informed of the abduction and have begun investigating.

Jose Grasso, president of the Venezuelan Professional Baseball League (LVBP) condemned the kidnapping.

"We have spoken with the authorities and we pray that Ramos is found safe and sound," he said.

Kidnapping is not unusual in Venezuela, and many cases are resolved within hours or days after payment of a ransom.

In 2009, the most recent year for which there are official figures, there were 16,917 kidnappings in the country, although some non-government organizations estimate the number is higher.

Meanwhile police have found the vehicle used to kidnap Wilson Ramos, although there was still no word from his captors, officials said Thursday.

The van was found abandoned near the home of the baseball player's parents in

Santa Ines in northern Venezuela where Ramos was staying.

Two armed men burst into the house on Wednesday, seized Ramos and drove off with him in an orange van, according to preliminary investigations. Initial reports had said the kidnapping was carried out by four armed men.

On Monday, Ramos had begun training with his Venezuelan League team, the Aragua Tigers, with whom he plays during the winter tournament season.

Although this was the first time a professional baseball player has been kidnapped in Venezuela, relatives of players have been snatched in recent years.

In 2008, the brother of major leaguer Henry Blanco was killed by his kidnappers on the outskirts of Caracas.

A year later, Major League Baseball catcher Yorvit Torrealba had to cut short his season in the United States and travel to Venezuela to negotiate with the kidnappers of his son, then 11 years old.

Kidnapping is not unusual in Venezuela, a country beset by insecurity and violence, and many cases are resolved within hours or days after payment of a ransom.

Penn State sacks continued from page 16



A statue of Penn State University head football coach Joe Paterno is seen outside of Beaver Stadium in University Park, Pennsylvania.

The grand jury findings included "extremely credible" testimony about the alleged rape and other sex abuse in graphic detail.

Paterno has noted that at the time, Sandusky was no longer a coach, although he did still have an office on campus. Paterno told athletic director Curley at the time, but apparently took no further action.

The student body was also in the spotlight Thursday for what Penn State newspaper The Daily Collegian described as an "embarrassment" after a night of violent protests.

"Thousands of students gathered at (the administration building) shouting chants of 'F--- the Trustees' and 'We want Joe,'" the paper reported.

John Surma, vice chair of the board of trustees, said the firings were "in the best interests of the university as a whole."

"The past several days have been absolutely terrible for the entire Penn State community," Surma said. "But the outrage that we feel is nothing compared to the physical and psychological suffering that allegedly took place."

In an earlier statement Paterno said he was "absolutely

devastated" by the developments.

"It is one of the great sorrows of my life. With the benefit of hindsight, I wish I had done more."

Penn State put its new interim head football coach Tom Bradley before the media on Thursday.

Bradley, who himself has been on the team's staff for 33 years, said he was taking the job with "very mixed emotions," but refused to talk about specifics of the abuse scandal.



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Penn State sacks coach Paterno



Police try to control students and those in the community as they fill the streets and react after football head coach Joe Paterno was fired.

STATE COLLEGE (AFP) - Iconic US college gridiron coach Joe Paterno said Thursday he was "disappointed" at being sacked amid a child sex scandal, but accepted it and appealed for calm after students violently protested his ouster.

In the most stunning fall from grace in years in the rarefied world of top-level US college athletics, Pennsylvania State University trustees abruptly fired Paterno and president Graham Spanier late

Wednesday as criticism raged over how school officials handled allegations of child sex abuse against a longtime assistant coach.

Police in riot gear responded when hundreds of Penn State students flooded the streets in support of Paterno, tipping over a television news van and kicking out its windows. At least one photographer was hit by a rock as a campus known as Happy Valley descended into chaos.

The 84-year-old coach is in

his 46th season at the helm of the Nittany Lions, a team he has guided to two national titles while amassing the most wins of any major-college coach in history.

He earlier announced his plans to retire at the end of the season, but the board of trustees decided Paterno and Spanier would have to go immediately as the outcry exploded in the wake of the arrest of former assistant coach Jerry Sandusky.

Sandusky has been charged with sexually assaulting eight boys over a span of 15 years, some of them at Penn State facilities.

Senior vice president Gary Schultz and athletic director Tim Curley recently stepped down and have been charged with perjury and failing to notify authorities of suspected abuse. Like Sandusky, they have denied wrongdoing.

"I am disappointed with the board of trustees' decision, but I have to accept it," Paterno said in a statement.

"A tragedy occurred, and we all have to have patience to let the legal process proceed. I appreciate the outpouring of support but want to emphasize that everyone should remain calm and please respect the university, its property and all that we value."

College football has grown into a billion-dollar industry with televised games drawing millions of viewers, but it has also come under a cloud amid allegations of corruption and charges that the governing collegiate athletics association acts as a sort of cartel restricting scholarships and competition.

And in a football-obsessed culture, Paterno's "Success with Honor" credo turned him into a respected figure.

The firings came after the US Education Department said it was investigating whether Penn State failed to report incidents of sexual abuse on campus, as required by federal law.

Paterno was not a target of the grand jury investigation into the case and has not been implicated in any legal wrongdoing.

But he has been harshly criticized for failing to take more aggressive action when suspicions about Sandusky were brought to his attention in 2002 by a graduate assistant who testified that he saw Sandusky sodomizing a boy in a locker room shower on campus.

continues on page 15

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